

Madam Speaker, these releases caused over \$300 billion in damages, over 4,000 minor injuries and 350 major injuries, and over a staggering 100 human deaths.

Madam Speaker, these statistics are unacceptable, especially when extremely dangerous nuclear waste and its catastrophic repercussions are similarly shipped across this country. I urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 1270.

ANN'S CAMPAIGN FOR A SAFER AMERICA

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the resilience of a remarkable northern Virginia family. In April I was on the floor commemorating a young woman whose life was cut short in an act of senseless, random violence. At that time, the Mt. Vernon community in my district was attempting to come to grips with the loss of Ann Marie Harris, who was shot and killed in Tacoma, WA, during her spring break.

Madam Speaker, since this senseless tragedy Ann's friends and family have worked hard to keep her memory alive through the founding of "Ann's Campaign for a Safer America." This organization is working to help all of us live the life that Ann radiated; a life in which we care more and are more understanding of each other.

I have the deepest respect for the Harris family as they try to turn this tragedy into a positive contribution for our communities. The Harrises have undertaken a speaking campaign to spread their experience through school presentation, conferences, and other forums. They will work with parents and school groups to prevent tragedies like this from recurring.

Madam Speaker, it epitomizes the best of the human spirit.

The Harris family is truly an example for us all. They have taken this shattering experience and turned it into a living tribute to their daughter. Ann's exceptional energy and enthusiasm lives on through these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, "Ann's Campaign for a Safer America" epitomizes the very best of the human spirit. I can think of no more appropriate memorial from Ann's family and friends than this effort to bring more understanding and less violence to our community.

KATHY WALLACE NAMED REE COOK-REITER "WOMAN OF THE YEAR"

(Mr. NEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, today I want to talk about Kathy Wallace of Bellaire, OH, who has been named the Ohio Valley Medical Center's 1997 Ree Cook-Reiter Women's Center "Woman

of the Year." Kathy is the first recipient of the award which honors women who are devoted to helping their communities.

Kathy is special to many people in the Ohio Valley where I am from. She has touched many lives through her caring and giving attitude. Some of those people are residents of the Country Club Retirement Center in Bellaire, where she gives weekly manicures. She always has a warm smile and friendly conversation for them. Kathy also donates sweet treats to nursing home residents from the Dairy Queen that she owns in Martins Ferry, OH.

Kathy has taught Bellaire and Belmont County about the importance of volunteering and dedication to one's community. She leads by example.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Kathy Wallace for her service to Belmont County, and to congratulate her as she is honored with this award as the "Woman of the Year." I wish Kathy Wallace continued success and health and prosperity. She is what America is all about. She has made people's lives brighter.

COLLEGE COSTS MOUNT AS COLLEGE PRESIDENTS' SALARIES RISE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, economists say they are mystified. They cannot understand why college costs are going so high.

It is no mystery to me, Madam Speaker. Check this out: The president of Vanderbilt makes \$480,000 a year. The president of Penn, \$450,000. The president of Wake Forest, \$450,000. The presidents of NYU and Yale make \$425,000.

Madam Speaker, if that is not enough to tax our student loan, the president of Northeastern makes \$1 million. Who is kidding whom? It does not take a Ph.D. to figure this out. Costs are going up at the college level because college presidents are getting hernias from carrying money bags around. Meanwhile, college graduates and students are filing for bankruptcy. Beam me up.

Madam Speaker, the President of the United States makes \$250,000. I yield back all of those Ph.D. presidents; they are all piled higher and deeper with money bags, I might add.

RADICAL REPUBLICANS PAVE WAY FOR BRIGHTER AMERICAN FUTURE

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, during the American Reconstruction period from 1865 through 1877, there was a

group of visionaries who were called radical Republicans. They wanted African-Americans to have full citizenship. These radical Republicans were for changes in society and in government.

Those who criticized the Republicans were the defenders of the status quo, and that is, once again, the situation today. Republicans are once again being called radical, extremists, mean-spirited by the defenders of the status quo.

Why? Because it is Republicans who want to change government; who want to reform the IRS; who want to give back citizens their constitutional right of innocence until proven guilty, instead of being guilty until they prove themselves innocent in an IRS tax audit.

Madam Speaker, that is the vision of today's radical Republicans. It is not extreme or heartless. It is just common sense. So when my colleagues hear those words, "extreme," "mean-spirited," "radical," remember once again the so-called radical Republicans paving the way for a brighter future for everyone here in America.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of character education and the strengthening of our public schools. I know teaching our children values and ethics will help improve education.

Last week I visited three schools in my district where character counts. They have embraced character education. They provide instruction on how to make good decisions. It teaches each child to control his own behavior. It teaches children to look at the world through a moral lense. Character education adapts existing educational material to inspire development of core ethical values among all students in the learning process.

Madam Speaker, it complements the efforts of parents, family, churches and the business community in developing qualities in our children that will strengthen our society. It emphasizes courage, good judgment, integrity, kindness, perseverance, respect, responsibility, and self-discipline.

Character education is a public school initiative that can improve education in America. Unfortunately, Congress would rather play politics with our children's future. Madam Speaker, we do not need vouchers to put tax money in private and religious schools. Let us defeat vouchers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MT. VERNON, IL FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the young members of the Mt. Vernon, IL Future Farmers of America who have won the Illinois FFA career development contest and will soon head to the national contest in Kansas City, MO.

As part of the contest, this group of young men and women from southern Illinois was asked to choose a topic of debate on agriculture. The Mt. Vernon FFA chose to debate on the ethanol tax incentive, which is so important to the environment, energy independency, and economic growth in this country.

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FFA debate team members will now travel to Kansas City on November 12 to debate with other FFA groups nationally.

I want to commend the Mount Vernon Township High School FFA for their hard work and wish each and every one of them the best of luck in debating ethanol in Kansas City.

Hopefully, they can come out and help me as we fight for the ethanol tax credit here in Washington, DC.

EDUCATION: REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with many of my colleagues to reaffirm our commitment to the education of our children and to our role in supporting local initiatives for strong neighborhood public schools.

One fine example of a local initiative which has fostered the success of thousands of children in my home State of California is the Parent Institute for Quality Education which has just celebrated its 10th anniversary. The primary emphasis of the Institute and its founder, Vahac Mardirosian, is the involvement of parents in their children's education. The Institute provides parents with the skills and knowledge necessary to become actively involved with their kids both at home and in their children's schools.

The Institute works with schools that have the most at-risk students. By building partnerships between parents, teachers and school administrators, the work and efforts of each are strengthened and every measure of quality education is demonstrably improved.

Plans to increase parental involvement in all our schools are included in the Democratic agenda for first class public schools. I encourage my colleagues to support this agenda which reaffirms our commitment to our children and to public education in our Nation.

COINCIDENCE OR ABUSE OF POWER

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, the President of the United States says that we should not politicize the IRS. I agree. So let us see if I have got this straight.

The White House is going to be the defender of the IRS from politics. That must be awfully inspiring to the conservative groups and critics of the Clinton administration who have all suddenly found themselves targeted for an audit. Pure coincidence, I am sure.

Look at the record. Let us see how this nonpolitical IRS is working out in reality. A nonprofit group in Wisconsin, Fortress America, mailed a fund-raising letter criticizing Hillary Clinton. What happened? Coincidence time. They got audited. A charter company, UltraAir, was one of those who got the ax in the travel office scandal. What happened? Coincidence time. They got audited. Billy Dale, coincidence time again, he got audited. Paula Jones brings a lawsuit. You guessed it. Another audit. Coincidence or abuse of power? You decide.

NATIONAL SAVE OUR CHILDREN DAY

(Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Madam Speaker, not just October 27, but every day should be National Save Our Schools Day. As I see it, October 27 and every day should be National Save Our Children Day. This is the test by which our generation will be judged. The degree to which our Nation prospers in the 21st century and beyond will depend on our success as leaders in developing safe, well-equipped and well-managed public educational institutions which will promote and nurture the academic, social, and emotional development of our children from the very beginning of their lives.

Today, much of the greatness that this country could realize is being lost in the broken down hallways and ill-equipped classrooms of the public school system which we have created through our neglect.

No one would disagree that the system as a whole is dysfunctional, but would not this Congress be also dysfunctional if conditions were in the same despicable state in which too many of our children spend most of their young impressionable lives? Every day that this nation's children enter most of our public schools, the message that they get is that we, their leaders, do not care and they naturally respond in kind. So, Madam Speaker, not just on Monday, but every day we should make saving our children from despair and neglect our highest priority.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Habitat for Humanity for kicking off a 6-week effort to construct five town homes in Fredericksburg, MD. Since 1976 Habitat for Humanity has used the model that the Lord helps those who help themselves to build simple decent homes in all 50 of the United States and more than 50 other countries. Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical religious housing ministry that welcomes all people's participation and donations in their work.

By providing decent housing, using donated materials and volunteer labor, habitat builds the self-esteem and self-reliance of God's people in need and builds a stronger sense of community among all people by providing opportunities for individuals to bear active witness to their individual faiths and responsibilities as members of a community. I commend Habitat for Humanity for building homes and strengthening our communities.

UNION PACIFIC MONOPOLY

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, freight rail service in large parts of the Western United States is at the point of collapse. Shipments have been delayed for weeks, even lost for months. That is not uncommon. Rail car shortages are so bad that plants in my district and throughout the Northwest are laying off workers, curtailing production for which they have orders because they cannot ship the product and they have got no place to put it.

Union Pacific's response has been, we are a monopoly now. We really do not care very much about your problems because you have got no place else to turn. Shippers have turned to the Service Transportation Board of the Government in desperation and now Union Pacific has a response, a suggested form letter with a carbon copy to President Dick Davidson of UP saying, we do not want any help or intervention, things might get better. UP is going to fix things now. They are paying attention.

They are being coerced into signing these letters, they are telling me, for fear that the dribble of rail cars they are now getting will be totally shut off. The Government has to step in and get the attention of this monopoly and straighten this out.

GROSS ABUSE AT IRS

(Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, the American people were treated to quite a spectacle last week. Year after year, we have heard